opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment.

Implementation of the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission

†*446. SHRI MUNNAVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has constituted any Expenditure Reforms Commission to give recommendations with regard to reducing extravagance in his Ministry/Departments;

(b) if so, recommendations made by the Commission so far;

(c) the details of the recommendations yet to be implemented by his Ministry/Departments and reasons for not implementing the same till date; and

(d) by when the same are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Ministry of Finance, Government of India had Constituted an Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC).

(b) The summary of the recommendations, relating to the Department of Coal and of the Department of Mines are enclosed as Statement-I and Statement-II respectively. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The response of the Department of Coal and of the Department of Mines to the ERC's recommendations have been sent to the Ministry of Finance. The response from the Ministry of Finance is awaited.

Statement-I

Summary of the ERC's recommendations relating to department of coal

(1) The Ministry needs to reorient its strategy considering the increasing role that coal sector plays in ensuring energy security.

(2) Unrestricted entry of private developers could be allowed in exploration and production of coal, by expediting the amendment to the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973, a Bill for which is pending in Parliament.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(3) Development of lignite resources outside the areas of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited could be left to the respective State Governments.

(4) The Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 needs to be amended and an Independent Regulatory Body set up for orderly development and for providing a level playing field in the Coal Sector in the liberalized environment.

(5) The Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974 needs to be amended and the rules made thereunder making public and private sectors equally responsible for aspects like scientific mining, safety, mine fires, coal washing and other conservation, environment and health related requirements in the coal mines.

(6) Clear, transparent and non-discriminatory guidelines need to be laid down on various important aspects of the coal industry.

(7) Efficiency of operations needs to be improved and surplus manpower eliminated in the public sector coal companies. Royalty and other levies of the State Governments as also the railway freight rates on coal movement need to be rationalized so as to make the domestic industry more competitive.

(8) The regional offices of Coal India all over the country and the liaison offices of subsidiaries at Kolkata need to be wound up.

(9) The seven coal producing subsidiaries of Coal India Limited need to be made fully Board managed Companies doing away with the Holding Company and winding up the Joint Bi-partite Committee of the Coal Industry (JBCCI).

(10) Restructuring Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) as an independent technical Advisory Body with the Coal Sector Public Sector Undertakings and Private Units participating in its management and equity structure.

(11) The Coal Controller's Office needs to be wound up and the residual work of Commissioner of Payments office needs to be phased out.

(12) The Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation needs to be restructured with a view to reducing the administrative charge on the Coal Companies and Government's financial support for Coal Mines Linked Pension Scheme.

(13) The heavy loss making Low Temperature Carbonisation Plant at Dankuni needs to be disposed off.

(14) Washing of high ash coal for power houses needs to be enforced both for meeting the environment related requirements as well as for securing economic benefits.

(15) The concept of "Saleable Coal" needs to be introduced and a scientific and commercially transparent coal grading system based on "Grossi

Statement-II

Summary of ERC's recommendations relating to department of Mines

Geological Survey of India:

1. The 'Charter of Functions and Responsibilities' should be redefined on the lines suggested in this report.
2. GSI should focus its attention on primary geological surveys and high technology earth science related investigations including natural disasters.
3. GSI should be declared as the national repository for earth sciences data and a high tech IT based "Natural Resources Information System" should be set up.
4. The drilling fleet needs to be reduced from 122 to 25 drilling rigs.
5. The 'Coal Wing' should be downsized to a small 'Coal Data Centre'.
6. Overlap of work between GSI's 'Marine Wing' and Department of Ocean Development (DOD) and other agencies should be removed. DOD could utilise the expertise available with GSI.
7. Airborne mineral surveys may be handled by the NRSA.
8. GSI should withdraw from rural surveys. Such work should be funded by the State Governments/other agencies.
9. Two units/entities one for geological and allied services and products and the second for GIS related work should be formed under the GSI for undertaking fee-based commercial activities. These units should undertake work on commercial terms.

10. Central head Quarters and associated establishment of GSI need to be heavily downsized.

11. There is a surplus of over 4000 in the existing manpower. These should be identified through a detailed exercise and dealt in terms of the policy for dealing with surplus staff.

12. All the vacant posts should be abolished and fresh hiring of personnel stopped.

13. More powers need to be delegated to the DG, GSI.

Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)

14. A part of the IBM should be converted into a 'regulatory body' for the non-coal mineral sector.

15. In addition to regulatory functions, IBM should focus on techno-economic appraisal of mineral deposits, technology upgradation of mining and mineral beneficiation, and issue guidelines to the industry based on their studies.

16. With higher delegation of powers to the State Governments under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 jurisdictional overlaps in the authority/functions of IBM and State Governments have appeared. These overlaps should be removed.

17. The surplus manpower and infrastructure facilities at Regional Offices could be offered to the concerned State Governments for strengthening the State level directorates of geology and mining, regulatory and enforcement agencies/departments.

18. Most of the provisions contained in the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 have become totally out dated and redundant. These Rules should be reviewed immediately and the number of statutory forms should be drastically reduced to no more than two or three and made IT oriented.

19. The size of Mineral Statistics Division needs to be reduced to no more than 8 or 10 officials.

20. The three Zonal Offices located at Nagpur, Bangalore and Ajmer should be abolished.

21. Given the modern infrastructure, equipment and available skills, IBM's ore dressing laboratories should be able to break even by charging for the services they render to the mineral industry.

22. Reports and technical documents prepared by IBM should be suitably priced to make this activity self-financing.

23. Downsizing of IBM for bringing down total strength to no more than 800 can be achieved by:

- Abolishing the existing 143 vacant posts.
- Winding up Zonal Offices at Nagpur, Bangalore, and Ajmer.
- Winding up establishments at Kolkata, Dehradun, Guwahati and Nellore.
- Working out arrangement with the State Governments whereby they could take officers of IBM for meeting their fresh requirements.
- Introducing information technology for capturing, compiling, processing and preparation of statistical information.
- Declaring the balance as surplus to be dealt with in accordance with the policy prescribed in this behalf.

Autonomous Institutions:

24. After the closure of BGML it may not be practicable for NIRM to continue on a stand alone basis for long. If other interested bodies, including the mining majors are willing, then Government could hand over the management of the institute to them. If such efforts do not fructify within two years then the institute would need to be wound up.

25. The management of NIMH should be handed over to a suitable private health and hospital services company. If such efforts do not fructify within two years then the institute would need to be wound up.

26. The JNARDDC should be reorganized to undertake projects related to the down stream/secondary aluminium industry, environment and waste management, process control and modeling and process and product development and testing services.

27. The staff strength should be downsized in line with the actual requirements. Government budgetary support should be phased out over a five-year period.

28. 95 acres of surplus land and 43 staff flats and the hostel at JNARDDC should be sold/transferred to the State Government or to any other agency on commercial terms.

29. The possibility of handing over the management of JNARDDC to one or other of the aluminium companies should be explored.

30. Redundant work force at JNARDDC should be identified and got rid of.

Ministry of Mines:

31. On implementation of the disinvestments programme in PSUs, downsizing of GSI and IBM as well as other subordinate offices the workload in the Ministry will be reduced substantially.

32. Reduction in manpower in the Ministry should cover the following posts:

    i. Group-A of one Addl. Secy. one JS, five Directors/Dy. Secy. two Industrial/Addl. Advisors and one Under Secy.(Total-10)

    ii. Group-B of five (5) SOs.

    iii. Group C of 30 in Assistants, LDCs and UDCs.

    iv. Reduction in Group D of 30 in peons, daftaries, drivers, safai karamcharis etc. Canteen services may be contracted out resulting in reduction of another 12 staff. Total reduction in this group will be 42.

33. Winding up of the TPPC with immediate effect. (10 Persons).

34. 11 persons borne on the rolls of IBM and working in the Ministry should be returned to IBM.

Total proposed reduction in the Ministry's strength is 87 or 38 per cent of the total strength. Besides these, 10 persons working in TPPC and 11 persons of IBM working in the Ministry may be sent back to their parent organizations.

35. Considering that the iron & steel sector was deregulated long back and the PSUs under the Ministry of Mines are already in the process of being disinvested, the existing Ministries of Mines and Steel could be combined into a composite Ministry of Mines and Metals. It could have three separate wings (not departments), one wing for dealing with iron & steel PSUs, another for the PSUs currently under the Ministry of Mines and the third for handling policy and regulatory aspects including GSI, IBM, etc. An Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary level officer could head these three wings, and report to the Secretary of the composite Ministry of Mines and Metals.

Power projects in Rajasthan

*447. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many power projects have been executed in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the financial and other details thereof;

(c) what is the capacity of each of these power projects; and

(d) by when they are likely to start commercial production?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) The following power projects have been commissioned during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2001-01 and 2001-02:—

Suratgarh TPS St. I Unit-2 (250 MW)

Suratgarh TPS St. II Unit-3 (250 MW)

Suratgarh TPS St. II Unit-4 (250 MW)

Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant Units 3 and 4 (2x220 MW)